

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY145
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Name of Service:	Na Fianna Preschool
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Address of Service:	Glasnevin Tennis Club, Ballymun Road, Dublin 9
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Eircode:	D09 DR76
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rita Cassin
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	16/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Area 1 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Nelson
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

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Description of service

Na Fianna Preschool is a sessional service located in Dublin 9 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 22 children aged 2 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday. The service operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme sessional service from 9.00am to 12.00pm during term time. Na Fianna Preschool operates from a large hall in a local tennis club with sanitary facilities available for children and staff. There is access to an outdoor area to the side of the premises

Staffing

The registered provider employs two staff to work in the service who work directly with the children, and all three adults were present on the morning of the inspection.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 21 and 23.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16(1)(h)(i)(j)(k) – Record in relation to Preschool Service.

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Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*

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(d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that;

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A review of the roster showed both the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place with roles and responsibilities, which was detailed in staff job descriptions.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider it was determined that there was one new staff member employed since the previous inspection who worked directly with the children. In addition, a Garda vetting disclosure was requested for review.

The registered provider had completed the following checks:

- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the two files reviewed. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Documentary evidence was available that established that international police vetting was not required.

(4) The staff member who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(1) (b) There was only one reference available for the staff file reviewed, and this had not been validated.

Appropriate, documented consideration of references must be completed on adults prior to them having access to the children in order to establish their suitability.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (a)(b) Outstanding reference was sourced and both references were verified. The registered provider commits to ensuring all references will be sources for new staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence was received

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9(2)(a)(b) has been addressed.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. Three adults were available to the 15 children who were present.

(3) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured the following records were maintained:

- (a) Details of the name, position, qualifications, and experience of all staff were maintained within the staff files.
- (b) The service Tusla certificate detailed the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services. This was displayed in the care room.
- (c) The policy document outlined the adult: child ratios.
- (d) The policy document outlined the type of care or programme provided.
- (e) The policy document outlined the facilities available within the service.
- (f) The opening hours and fees of the service were displayed in the care room.
- (h) Attendance records detailing the daily arrival and departure of the children were maintained.
- (i) A record was maintained of the staff roster which was reflective of the staff present on the day.

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- (j) Following a review of a sample of three records, the registered provider ensured a full record in writing was maintained for the administration of medication.
- (k) The registered provider ensured there was a template available for the recording of accidents and incidents.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The following records were not maintained:

- (g) The following policies which are required under Schedule 5 in accordance with Regulation 10 were not available:

Policy on administration of medication; outings policy; policy on authorisation to collect children; policy on outdoor play; settling-in policy; staff training policy; supervision policy.

Documented policies are required to clearly outline the service decision making procedures on specified practice areas.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(g) The outstanding policies were developed. The registered will ensure all required policies are available.

Supporting documentation submitted

Policy documentation.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 16(1)(g) has been addressed.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)

(b) The following suitable care practices were observed:

- The staff were observed to interact with the children in a respectful, warm and sensitive manner using appropriate strategies such as low tones, song, being at the children's level, using children's names and asking questions.
- The experiences and activities provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children. For example, a pass the ball activity was clearly explained to the children and was timed to hold their interest. All children completed the activity successfully which fostered a meaningful play experience.
- Staff respectfully reminded the children to use the toilet, and the children were brought to the toilet in a timely manner when they requested to.
- Transitions between activities were managed using strategies such as verbal indication, modelling and clear instruction. For example, after circle time, children were asked to bring their chair back to the table and get ready for handwashing. This supported children in knowing what will happen next.
- Engagement with families and parents was facilitated via conversations at drop off and collection and via an annual parent feedback form requesting comments and feedback on the service
- Staff were observed to cordon off an area to enclose a play space for a group of children engaged in a play experience of role play, protecting the space from other children encroaching and interrupting their play.
- The mealtime experience was observed to be a leisurely and sociable experience, where children could opt to participate in a large group table for their meal. Staff were observed to sit with the children and support them with their lunch.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service ensured there was adequate and suitable furniture and play equipment available, for example:

- The furniture and equipment in the room was observed to be adequate for the number of children and it was appropriate for the age range and stage of development of the children attending.
- The furniture and equipment was observed to be well maintained, durable and easy to clean.
- The toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving, stored in clear plastic storage boxes leaving the equipment visible and accessible to the children.
- Equipment was grouped into themed interest areas.
- There was a variety of play materials and equipment available to the children according to their age and stage of development, which facilitated a range of play experiences including mark making equipment, small world play, library area, jigsaws, threading, sorting and constructing.
- There was a cozy area in the room where children could take a break and engage in more restful activities.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

The following measures were observed to safeguard to children:

General Safety:

- The entrance to the service was secured with a door latch up high out of reach of children on the inside, and a code access on the outside. This restricted the unsupervised movement of children into the tennis club, and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access.
- Furniture and shelving were observed to be stable and secured.
- A staff member was observed to complete a check on the outdoor area prior to the children accessing outdoor play. The outdoor area was secured by an external gate which restricted children from leaving the premises unsupervised.

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- Grapes in children's lunch boxes were observed to be cut in half.
- Staff were aware of the health care needs of the children in the care room, and reported none required ongoing medication.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at the wash hand basins used by the children and the staff members.
- Children were supported to handwash prior to eating their lunch.
- The premises were in a clean and hygienic condition and documented up to date cleaning records were available.
- A fridge was available to store perishable food items from children's lunch boxes.

Fire Safety:

- Children and staff were observed to be accurately recorded in the daily attendance log.
- Emergency exits were observed to be unobstructed.